

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**Please amend paragraphs 12-15 of the specification as follows:**

[0012] Apparatus 10 further includes cantilever portion 110 having a base end and a free end. Base end 108 is coupled to handle member 100 at about apex 103. Free end 109 of cantilever portion 110 extends at an angle,  $\alpha$ , of on the order of 0 to 20 degrees relative to an inferior portion (as viewed) of one diagonal portion (e.g., diagonal portion 102E in **Figure 3**) of handle member 100, and at a distance from the interior portion of the diagonal portion. In this manner, slot 114 is formed between handle member 100 and cantilever portion 110. Still further, a base of slot 114, in one embodiment, defines circular well ~~112~~120.

[0013] Apparatus 10 also includes hook ~~115~~ coupled to a superior surface (as viewed) of cantilever portion 110 so as to be disposed in slot 114. In the embodiment shown in **Figure 1**, hook ~~115~~ is disposed between circular well ~~112~~120 and free end 109 of cantilever portion 110.

[0014] In this embodiment, one edge ~~120~~ of hook ~~115~~ adapts an arc shape defining circular well ~~112~~120. In one embodiment, the components of apparatus 10 described above (e.g., handle member 100, cantilever portion 110, and hook ~~115~~) are formed as one integral piece by, for example, a light plastic material formed in a mold to the shape illustrated.

[0015] In one embodiment, bag handles such as a pair of handles of one or more plastic groceries bags, may be positioned on apparatus 10 by maneuvering ~~the~~a pair of handles through slot 114, beyond hook ~~115~~ to well ~~112~~120. Thus, a bag or multiple bags can be carried in a generally more comfortable manner by apparatus 10.

**Please amend paragraph 17 of the specification as follows:**

[0017] Apparatus 10 minimizes the possibility of bags (e.g., bag handles of bags) thus inserted into or on apparatus 10 from sliding off of cantilever portion 110. In one embodiment, hook ~~115~~ minimizes the possibility by partially blocking slot 114. In the embodiment shown in **Figure 13**, hook ~~115~~ has an edge ~~120~~ conforming to the shape of the well ~~112~~120 to block a portion of slot 114. In another embodiment, hook ~~115~~ partially blocks slot 114.

Appl. No. : 10/028,486  
Filed : December 19, 2001

**Please amend paragraph 19 of the specification as follows:**

[0019]        **Figure 6** is a front side view of another embodiment of an apparatus including a round-edged hook 112~~120~~ (rounded at its superior edge (as viewed) adjacent the well 112).